



CONGRESSMAN

JOHN SARBANES

REPRESENTING MARYLAND'S 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sarbanes Working for Howard County

Economic Development:

- **Help Business Development Get Back on Track**—The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act created a new type of public private partnership, Recovery Zone Facility Bonds, that will help private business development in communities hit hardest by our economic downturn. Howard County will leverage \$17.4 million in federal tax cuts to issue bonds financing projects valued at \$24 million. The following projects were selected by Howard County:
 - \$11 million nursing home project by Lorian Health System that includes a 64 bed facility located on the site of the closed Copper Stallion Motel
 - \$13 million two-story office building in an existing office park, built in an environmentally sensitive manner
- **Enhance Broadband Access to Businesses and Community Institutions**—I worked with other members of the Delegation and Howard County to secure \$115 million in Recovery Act funding to deploy the OneMaryland Broadband Network. This program will bring affordable and abundant broadband to each of Maryland's 24 counties, including Howard County. Broadband, digital communications and other information technology are important tools to encourage economic development, social advancement and job growth in Maryland. For every dollar invested in broadband, it is estimated that the economy sees a ten-fold return on that investment.
- **Bringing Workers and Jobs to Fort George G. Meade**—Starting next year, the 2005 BRAC will bring 7,500 workers to Fort Meade along with the Defense Information System Agency (DISA), the Defense Media Activity (DMA) and the Defense/Military Adjudication Activities. This BRAC growth will occur in addition to expansion of current intelligence agencies and the arrival of Cyber Command at Fort Meade. A recent report estimated that Fort Meade currently provides over \$17 billion in economic impact to Maryland. Fort Meade will continue to drive economic growth in the region, including in Howard County.

Transportation:

- **Investing in the MARC Commuter Rail System**—I am a strong supporter of MARC and, more generally, a robust public transportation system in Maryland. I share the frustration felt by riders with the recent problems and unpredictability with MARC. In order to make MARC more reliable, I have worked in the Congress to secure \$23 million in additional capital funding to upgrade railcars and parking facilities. The Recovery Act also provided over \$90 million for the MARC system to fund a new public address system and upgrades at the Laurel MARC Station.
- **Improving Howard County Public Transportation**—I believe that public transportation offers a cost-effective, safe, and reliable means of travel for many residents of Howard County, especially as the influx of workers begin to come to Fort Meade and the surrounding community. Working in Congress, I have secured over \$1 million to help construct the Central Maryland Transit Operations Facility. This facility will help provide residents of Howard County more access to public transportation options as they commute to work. In addition, the Recovery Act provided over \$2.5 million to Howard County to buy three new hybrid buses and upgrade existing bus facilities. I remain committed to fighting for federal funds to support public transportation in Howard County.

Chesapeake Bay:

- **Supporting the Science and Environmental Education of Bay Restoration**—I introduced the Chesapeake Bay Science, Education and Ecosystem Enhancement Act of 2009, which reauthorizes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Chesapeake Bay Office. This legislation increases collaboration between the various programs and activities to further NOAA's coastal resource stewardship mission. The NOAA office oversees the Chesapeake Bay Interpretative Buoy system which is a system of buoys that reports real-time weather and environmental information such as wind speed, temperature, and wave height. To access the real-time information please visit www.buoybay.org. The legislation also strengthens the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET)

To learn more about how you can become involved in restoring the Chesapeake Bay please visit www.chesapeakebay.net.

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) can provide management, training and technical assistance. For more information visit www.mdsbdc.umd.edu or 1-877-421-0830.

- Program which is a competitive grant program that supports existing environmental education initiatives, fosters the growth of new programs, and encourages the development of partnerships among environmental education groups throughout the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed. Finally, the legislation will also assist watermen on the Chesapeake by expanding technical assistance that NOAA offers beyond native oyster populations to include fish and shellfish aquaculture. This bill will focus the relevant science, research and resource management capabilities of NOAA as they apply to the Chesapeake Bay.
- **Giving People Access to the Chesapeake Bay**—I have introduced legislation to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network (CBGN), a program that connects those who live in the Bay watershed to the natural, cultural and historic resources of the Bay and thereby encourages individual stewardship of these resources. The CBGN program has grown to include more than 150 sites and over 1500 miles of established and developing water trails in six states and the District of Columbia. Through grants to parks, volunteer groups, wildlife refuges, historic sites, museums, and water trails, the Network ties these sites together to provide meaningful experiences and foster citizen stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay. Gateway sites in Howard County include the Patapsco Valley State Park.
- **Engaging Individual Citizens in Restoring the Bay**—I recently introduced the Save the Bay Homeowner Act of 2010 (H.R. 6382), legislation that would help the 17 million citizens of the Chesapeake Bay watershed to become citizen stewards of the Bay and give them an active role in restoring it. The legislation directs the EPA to develop a “Save the Bay Home” designation program that identifies various steps homeowners could voluntarily take around their property to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff and improve water quality in local streams and rivers that feed into the Bay. If a participating home meets certain standards, examples of which could include installing rain barrels or reducing fertilizer on lawns, that home could be designated a “Save the Bay Home.” The bill further directs the EPA to give credit to states and local jurisdictions for nutrient and sediment level reduction based upon the number of homeowners that achieve the “Save the Bay Home” designation.

Workforce Development:

- **Keeping Teachers in the Classroom**—Due to the recent economic downturn, Howard County and other local governments are faced with cuts to basic services and layoffs of critical personnel like teachers and first responders. I voted for legislation that would give Howard County schools and other local school districts in Maryland emergency funding that prevented more than 2,200 teacher layoffs in Maryland and 300 teachers in the 3rd Congressional District from impacting classrooms this school year.
- **Helping Individuals Transition Back into the Workforce**—The Howard County Office of Workforce Development provides vital support and training to those who are trying to get back into the workforce. The Recovery Act provided over \$580,000 to support one-stop career counseling at the Columbia Workforce Center in Howard County. This center provides assistance to those looking for jobs including individual placement assistance, resume review, interviewing techniques, computer and other technical skills training.
- **Training Workers for Green Jobs**—Through a Recovery Act grant, Maryland received more than \$5 million to train 1,500 individuals and place them in energy-efficient employment in four different green industries. The project will be implemented through a regional partnership with businesses, community colleges, labor apprenticeship programs and the One-Stop Workforce System. The project will also improve manufacturing sustainability practices and waste stream management, develop and expand green construction training options and assist workers as they pursue careers. Participants will earn certificates or degrees in waste stream management, environmental technology, renewable energy or green construction.
- **Helping the Unemployed**—Everyday I hear from people who are struggling to make ends meet during these difficult economic times. For this reason, I supported legislation that has extended unemployment benefits and the COBRA health insurance subsidy for unemployed workers through November 30, 2010.

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